with effect from 1st November 2006. As a result, release of 5% EBP has commenced at all locations in 15 States and 4 Union Territories.

The Government has further decided that since 9th Octiber 2007, 5% blending of ethanol with petrol will be mandatory and 10% blending will be optional and thereafter mandatory from October 2008. The modalities for implementation are being worked by the MoP&NG in consultation with stakeholders.

A broad based programme for research & development, production and utilization of bio-diesel is under inmplementation by different Ministries.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has prepared a Draft National Policy on Bio-fuels. Under its ongoing Research, Development and Demonstration Programmes, MNRE has supported field trials of different blends of bio-diesel in diesel cars, use of hydrogen as fuel in motorcycles and three-wheelers and introduction of hydrogen-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) blends in different vehicles. In addition, support is also being provided for development & promotion of battery operated vehicles.

Bio-Diesel Plantations in Andhra Pradesh

1793. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any development under Pongamia for raising bio-diesel plantations, spread over 8,800 hectares in 16 districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance given by Government in this regard; and

(d) the present status of release of funds and utilization thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDE) XIII Bio-diesel project for raising pongamia plantations over 8,800 hectares in 16 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The total cost for plantation of pongamia in 8,800 hectares has been estimated at Rs. 2341.49 lakh.

(c) and (d) Out of the total outlay of bio-diesel project of Rs. 2341.49 lakh., Rs. 2224.46 lakh is loan component from NABARD and Rs. 117.03 lakh is Government share. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is yet to grant Administrative Approval. However, Rs.20.00 crore has been released during the year 2007-08 under the previous RIDE bio-diesel project and an expenditure of Rs. 13.28 crores has been incurred for raising bio-diesel plantations.

Installation of Solar Energy Plants

†1794. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of solar energy plants being installed in States, as on date;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on them so far;

(c) by when each of those plants is likely to be operational;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.